

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CURACA 00246 080021Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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R 071730Z MAY 76

FM AMCONSUL CURACAO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2672

UNCLAS CURACAO 0246

ARA/CAR FOR PALAZZOLO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, NA

SUBJECT: SITUATION AT THE FLAMBOYANT SANDS HOTEL
OF CURACAO

REFERENCE: CURACAO A-12

1. ON MAY 6, 1976, MR. OSCAR I. SEMEREL, GENERAL SECRETARY OF HORECAF (HOTEL WORKERS UNION OF CURACAO), BACKED BY A DELEGATION OF 60 UNION MEMBERS, PRESENTED AT THE CONGEN A LETTER DATED MAY 5, 1976 ADDRESSED TO CONSUL GENERAL HANSON (COPY POUCHED). ALTHOUGH THE PRESENTATION WAS MADE IN A PEACEFUL MANNER, IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE MOOD OF THE WORKERS WAS ANGRY.

2. THE LETTER WAS SIGNED FOR THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE UNION BY SEMEREL, REGINALD J. DRUIVENTAK, SECRETARY OF FINANCE, AND EITEL F. PIETERSZ, SECRETARY OF INFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA. THE LETTER MAKES A CLAIM OF NAF.1,250,169.20 AGAINST U.S. CITIZEN JAMES COMFORTI ON BEHALF OF THE HOTEL S APPROXIMATELY 100 WORKERS.

3. THE LETTER REQUESTS THE CONSULATE GENERAL S HELP IN CONTACTING MR. JAMES COMFORTI, SAID TO BE PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDER
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PAGE 02 CURACA 00246 080021Z

IN THE FLAMBOYANT SANDS HOTEL OF CURACAO AND REPORTED TO BE

ONE OF THE BIGGEST SHAREHOLDERS OF COMFORTI AND EISEL CONSTRUCTION COMPANY. THE UNION HAS RECEIVED NO RESPONSE TO THEIR LETTER AND CABLE SENT ON APRIL 12, 1976 ADDRESSED TO COMFORTI AT 234 EAST 40TH STREET, NEW YORK 10016, TELEPHONE (212) 686-7100, IN WHICH THE UNION INVITED COMFORTI TO COME TO CURACAO TO DISCUSS HOTEL PROBLEMS. HORECAF INTENDS TO INSTITUTE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE U.S. IF NECESSARY TO SETTLE THE MATTER.

4. ONE OF SEVERAL ENCLOSURE S TO THE UNION S LETTER IS A COPY OF A LETTER DATED MAY 5, 1976, TO MR. SEMEREL FROM D. VITKOVIC, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE FLAMBOYANT SANDS HOTEL AND CASINO, WHICH STATES "ON BEHALF OF THE OWNER AND MANAGEMENT OF THE FLAMBOYANT SANDS HOTEL AND CASINO N.V., I WISH TO REPEAT OUR INFORMATION THAT DUE TO OUR CHRONICAL FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, EFFECTIVE APRIL 3, 1976 AND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE UNFORTUNATELY, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET OUR OBLIGATIONS ACCORDINGLY".

5. "BEURS" NEWSPAPER OF MAY 4, 1976 STATES THAT THE CURACAO FEDERATION OF WORKERS FILED A BANKRUPTCY CASE AGAINST THE FLAMBOYANT SANDS HOTEL AND CASINO N.V., WHICH WAS POSTPONED UNTIL MAY 11. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS DURING THE HANDLING OF THE CASE IN COURT WAS THE FACT THAT THE BANKRUPTCY OF JAMES COMFORTI, OWNER AND OPERATOR OF THE HOTEL, SHOULD HAVE BEEN REQUESTED. THE PETITION SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST THE HOTEL AND CASINO, BUT AGAINST THE OWNER AND OPERATOR.

HANSON

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Draft Date: 07 MAY 1976
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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